

5. (Amended) The transformant according the Claim 4 wherein the strain that produces an enzyme taking PQQ as the prosthetic group is a bacterial strain of the genus *Pseudomonas*.

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6. (Amended) A method of producing an enzyme taking PQQ as the prosthetic group, which method comprises growing the transformant according to Claim 4 in a nutrient medium to produce the enzyme taking PQQ as the prosthetic group in the culture broth and harvesting the enzyme taking PQQ as the prosthetic group from said culture broth.

REMARKS

The Present Invention

The invention is directed to a plasmid defective for conjugative transfer function comprising a DNA fragment containing a gene coding for an enzyme taking pyrroloquinoline-quinone (PQQ) as a prosthetic group, a bacterial transformant bearing the same and having the ability to produce the enzyme taking PQQ as the prosthetic group, and a method of producing the enzyme taking PQQ as a prosthetic group which comprises using the transformant.

Amendments to the Specification

The title has been amended to more clearly indicate the invention to which the claims are directed. This amendment to the title is supported by the specification as a whole.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1, 4, 5, and 6 have been amended to claim more distinctly and point out more particularly the present invention by clarifying the claim language. The scope of the claims has not changed, and no new matter has been added by way of these claim amendments. Separate documents setting forth the precise changes to the claims, as well as the text of all pending claims, are enclosed herewith.